

CHARGE OF COLLUSION MADE BY PUBLISHERS

They Believe Paper Makers Are Seeking Deliberately to Force Prices Higher.

COMMISSION GIVES HEARING

Statement Is Made That Condition Is Very Serious, and Unless Relief Is Given Quickly Many Newspapers May Be Forced to Wall.

WASHINGTON, August 1.—News-papers publishers and printers were given a hearing to-day by the Federal Trade Commission on the scarcity and high price of newsprint paper.

Those who appeared included John Clyde Oswald, representing New York publishers; A. Nevin Pomeroy, Pennsylvania, superintendent of State printing; J. H. Zerby, of Pottsville, Pa., chairman of a committee from the National Editorial Association, and representatives of the Pittsburgh daily Publishers Association.

Paper manufacturers will testify later.

Mr. Zerby, representing the National Editorial Association, was the first witness. He charged that the International Paper Company was holding more than \$1,000,000 worth of newsprint paper and he compared that with the fact that publishers all over the country are facing increases in price and the possibility of difficulty to make new contracts for supplies.

RESERVE STOCK HELD

TO SUSTAIN RECORD

P. T. Dodge, representing the International Company, arose at that point and told the commission the reserve stock to which Mr. Zerby referred was held to sustain the company's record of never having failed to supply its customers for any cause whatever, fires, floods or strikes. Mr. Dodge added that new mills his company is about to build will be in Canada, because the present tariff conditions are hostile to paper manufacturing in the United States.

F. B. Glass, vice-president of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, declared in his testimony that the publishers in the association were morally certain there was collusion among paper makers to force up the price, and he promised to place in the hands of the commission within sixty days what he said would be proof of his statement.

Mr. Glass said the publishers' association viewed the situation with extreme alarm, and had held meetings recommending increased paper production by Sunday work, and the limitation of the use of paper by small editions, decreased returns, and circulation inactivity. Increases of 25 to 35 per cent on contracts and sometimes 100 per cent on emergency orders, he said, were taking the profits of most newspapers and driving some to the wall. One Western paper, he said, reported an increased paper cost of \$250,000 a year. No means of relief except from the courts or the commission were open to the publishers, he said. He added that was almost impossible to get quotations from more than one mill, that one being the one usually dealt with.

SAYS PUBLISHERS CANNOT FIND OUT WHERE THEY STAND

Mr. Zerby, in his testimony, also charged that there was so much favoritism in the sale of paper that publishers cannot find out where they stand. He thought it amounted to the manufacturers had united to force purchasers to buy only from the mill they have been dealing with. Some times, he said, it was possible to get contracts, sometimes not. He suggested that publishers might stand a small increase of perhaps 2 per cent in paper price, but that anything above that would force very many of the smaller newspapers up to 20,000 circulation into bankruptcy.

Mr. Dodge explained that a very sudden and unexpected increase in demand had entirely outrun the total available supply, even with every machine and mill running to the limit. He estimated that paper consumption had increased 20 per cent in the year, and that all manufacturing costs have gone up. No new mills have been built within the year in this country, Mr. Dodge said, because it is impossible to make a fair profit on the capital invested. His company, he said, had done everything possible to increase the supply, and had reduced its reserve stock from 37,000 tons to 17,000 tons. Orders for nearly 100,000 tons of paper from abroad in the last three months have been refused, he said, and no new contracts have been made. Sunday work was inadvisable, he said, because of legal restrictions, increased labor costs and the need of time for machinery repairs. He hoped, however, that the situation would see a decided change for the better shortly.

NEW YORK NEWSPAPERS

REDUCE NUMBER OF PAGES

NEW YORK, August 1.—Publishers of daily newspapers in Greater New York at a meeting this afternoon took action which will result in a decrease of the number of pages in their morning, evening and Sunday issues of 121 pages a week. The reduction of so many pages is a step to relieve the newsprint paper situation which is regarded by the publishers as very serious. Action was also taken to eliminate returns of unsold copies.

HARRY MONROE IS DEAD

Man Who Converted Billy Sunday Succumbs After Long Illness.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) CHICAGO, August 1.—Harry Monroe is dead. The man who converted Billy Sunday, and who, as assistant director of the Pacific Garden Mission at 67 West Monroe Street, persuaded hundreds of human derelicts to "start all over," has himself gone the way he tried so hard to point for others.

Mr. Monroe died in his Morgan Park home, after a long illness caused by a nervous breakdown over a year ago. He had preached at the mission every Sunday night since 1877 until his illness forced him to remain away. A widow and three children survive him.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

FURNISHED light housekeeping suites complete, front rooms, 118 South Fifth. WANTED, at once, house in Highland Park or Battery Court, monthly lease. Phone Madison 1001-J.

Becomes City of First Class

Charlottesville Graduates From Bush League by Governor's Proclamation.

Charlottesville, seat of the university that Jefferson founded, and beloved for its classic halls in classic groves, has graduated from the bush league and has been given her major league diploma.

Yesterday, Governor Stuart was notified by Judge A. D. Dabney, of the Charlottesville Corporation Court, that as a result of a recent annexation, the city's population has been increased to 11,322. The Constitution provides that as soon as a city of the second class shall attain a batting average of 10,000 or more it shall automatically graduate into the rank of cities of the first class and acquire all major league prerequisites.

Accordingly, a proclamation went forth from the Governor's office yesterday notifying all men by these presents that Charlottesville, in Alleghenya, is now a city of the first class. It dons the big league mantle, hitherto flaunted exclusively by Richmond, Norfolk, Roanoke, Lynchburg, Petersburg and the other overgrown towns that possess a population of 10,000 or more.

A search through the Constitution shows that Charlottesville's chief prerequisite as a member of the major league will be the right to elect and possess a bicameral council. In Richmond reform circles, where the city manager and commission-plan heresies are burgeoning handsomely, Charlottesville's new blessing is not looked upon as altogether unalloyed. But Charlottesville should worry.

FAVORS SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

Evangelist Serna Says Religion Is Not In Province of Civil Government and Needs No Such Help.

"The greatest prosperity of the church and the greatest progress of the state will be realized when the church and the state walk not hand in hand, but side by side," asserted Evangelist Serna last night at the Bible Institute. He said further that true Christianity does not need the support of the state, nor should it accept it even though it were proffered. "When the cause of religion is a good one, it will take care of itself; if it cannot take care of itself, but must lean for support on the arm of the state, it is a pretty good evidence that its cause is a bad one. Religion is not in the province of civil governments. Christ needs no help from Caesar. The prophecy of Revelation plainly teaches that when the church inculcates its dogmas into civil government, then the product is infidelity and persecution."

Mr. Serna's subject was "The Church and the Devil," and was in explanation of the twelfth chapter of Revelation. He announced that to-night he would speak of "Marching Toward the Citadel of Authority."

Two Excellent Papers Read.

Incidentally omitted from the report of the proceedings of the Virginia Press Association meeting at Staunton last week was mention of two papers read by Miss Bertha Gray Robinson, editor of the Orange Observer. Miss Robinson read the historian's paper, which was a carefully compiled resume of the changes in the various newspapers of the state during the preceding year. Miss Robinson also read a most poem on the beauties of nature on a spring morning. Both papers were highly appreciated by those who heard them.

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Dr. Carl L. Alsberg, Chief of Bureau of Chemistry of the Agricultural Department, in an address to the National Wholesale Grocers' Association at Atlantic City said:

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